

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

No. 282-M
November 1, 1994

Secretary of Defense William Perry will conduct a swearing-in ceremony Friday, November 4, 1994 for William H. Bowen, the new chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR). Secretary Perry will also have a formal signing ceremony at this event, declaring November 6-12, 1994, as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, which recognizes the contributions of the nation's employers to the national defense.

NCESGR is a Department of Defense chartered organization responsible for informing the American business and civic community about the role of the National Guard and Reserve in the Total Force. It was formed in 1972 as part of a nationwide effort to develop support from civilian employers who have Guardsmen and Reservists in their workplace. The chairman is assisted by a small staff located in Washington, D.C. and a network of more than 4,200 volunteers.

Bowen served as chairman of the Arkansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for nine years prior to his appointment as national chairman. A native of Altheimer, Arkansas, he holds law degrees from the University of Arkansas Law School and New York University. He is also a graduate of Rutgers University's Stonier Graduate School of Banking. Bowen is president and chief executive officer of Healthsource Arkansas Ventures, Inc.

William O. Bourke precedes Bowen as the chairman of NCESGR. During the November 4th ceremony, Secretary Perry will present Bourke the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

These events are open to the press in Room 3E869. For additional information contact NCESGR Public Affairs Officer Major Peter Martin, (703) 696-1388.

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